



Don Nickles, Chairman  
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**STATEMENT FROM SENATE BUDGET CHAIRMAN NICKLES**

Re: Labor Department's Job Growth and Unemployment Report

The Labor Department today announced an increase in payroll employment of 126,000 jobs, continuing a three-month job growth record of 286,000 new jobs. As a result, unemployment numbers dropped, continuing to show the economy experiencing its strongest growth in 20 years.

Also encouraging are numbers reported from the Bureau of Labor Statistics' household survey, stating total employment now at the highest level in U.S. history. Surpassing the high set in January 2001, right before the recession, total employment is now 138.014 million jobs.

"This is welcome news," said Budget Chairman Don Nickles. "With GDP looking strong, this was the last and most important piece of the puzzle. Our jobs and growth plan is yielding positive results for the economy and now, most importantly, for American workers."